

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, *et al.*,

Debtors.¹

PROMESA

Title III

No. 17 BK 3283-LTS

Re: ECF Nos. 24068, 24069

(Jointly Administered)

URGENT CONSENSUAL MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINES

To the Honorable United States District Judge Laura Taylor Swain:

The Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority (“AAFAF”), on behalf of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the “Commonwealth”), pursuant to the authority granted to it under the *Enabling Act of the Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority*, Act 2-2017, respectfully submits this urgent consensual motion (the “Urgent Motion”) for entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the “Proposed Order”), extending the

¹ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor’s respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283- LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17- BK-4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority (“PBA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5233-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations).

deadlines set forth in the *Order Granting Urgent Consensual Motion for Extension of Deadlines* [ECF No. 24069] (the “Scheduling Order”)².

Background

1. On June 22, 2021, forty-four (44) correction officers (the “Movants”) of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“DCR”), an entity of the Commonwealth, filed a *Motion Requesting Order for Allowance of Administrative Expense Priority Claim and Request for Immediate Payment Filed by Forty-Four Correction Officers of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico* [ECF No. 17134] (the “Motion”), requesting that the Court enter an order (i) for “the allowance of the amounts claimed by the Movants as an administrative expense priority from the date of the filing of the Title III Commonwealth case and from then on”, (ii) directing the Commonwealth to pay such amounts in “full, and final satisfaction” within sixty (60) days of entry of such order, (iii) directing the Debtor to continue issuing payments on a monthly basis, and (iv) ordering the Trial Court of Aguadilla, in connection with certain state court litigations related to Movants’ request in their Motion, to “make the necessary adjustment to the ‘KRONOS’ time register system to register as overtime the 30 minute hour work during mealtime periods”. See, *Motion* at p. 17-18.

2. On April 24, 2023, the Court entered the Scheduling Order, which provides that oppositions to the Motion must be filed by May 15, 2023, and Movants’ reply by May 25, 2023.

² The Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, as the Commonwealth’s representative pursuant to section 315(b) of the *Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act* (“PROMESA”), has authorized AAFAF to file this Urgent Motion on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Request for Relief

3. Since the filing of the Motion, the Commonwealth conducted multiple internal reviews of their books and records to evaluate the merits—or lack thereof—of the claims made in the Motion for the periods included therein. Such analysis, among other things, entailed a corroboration of whether all the Movants pertaining to the Motion were active in the DCR for the periods for which relief was sought.

4. As mentioned in prior occasions, the Commonwealth and the Movants had reached an agreement, in principle, as to the amounts for the periods claimed in the Motion. Although the parties have been in the process of finalizing a written agreement for such periods, and although significant progress in such endeavor has been made, they had previously been unable to culminate it because the Movants requested that an agreement between the parties includes amounts, if any are owed, up to the Effective Date of the Commonwealth's Plan (the "Plan")³. As also mentioned in prior occasions, the Commonwealth and the Movants had also managed to reach an agreement, in principle, as to amounts owed up to the Effective Date of the Plan.

5. Notwithstanding the above, while in the process of exchanging comments to the draft of a written agreement for all relevant periods up to the Effective Date, the Movants noted a certain discrepancy in the amounts for one specific claimant, stemming from a confusion in the Movants' amounts alleged in the Motion for such claimant. Although such discrepancy was not significant, it nonetheless resulted in an additional delay in the finalization of an agreement between the parties, as it has caused the Commonwealth to conduct an additional reconciliation

³ *Modified Eighth Amended Title III Joint Plan of Adjustment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, et al.* [ECF No. 19813-1 Ex. A].

for one specific Movant and to review certain legal provisions, in furtherance of attempting to continue with the endeavors for a consensual resolution as to this one specific claimant.

6. At this juncture, the Commonwealth's additional internal review for such claimant culminated, and a revised proposal was sent to counsel for Movants and, as stated in prior occasions, although Movants have accepted the amounts proposed by the Commonwealth for the relevant periods of the Motion up until the Effective Date, the parties continue discussing the terms and conditions to be included in a settlement document. As stated in prior occasions, however, Movants have recently raised additional matters which are not contemplated in the Motion, which the Commonwealth is evaluating in a good faith effort to resolve all matters with the Movants.

7. Therefore, to further continue having efficient settlement communications, the Commonwealth reached out to Movants' counsel who has consented to the requested extension.

8. Accordingly, the Commonwealth, with Movants' consent, proposes the following extensions of the deadlines set forth in the Scheduling Order to allow further discussions with Movants:

- The deadline to respond to the Motion shall be extended to **June 5, 2023**.
- The deadline for Movants to file a reply to an opposition, if any, shall be extended to **June 15, 2023**.
- The Court will thereafter take the Motion on submission, unless the Court determines that a hearing is necessary.

9. Pursuant to Paragraph I.H of the *Sixteenth Amended Notice, Case Management and Administrative Procedures* [ECF No. 20190-1] (the "Case Management Procedures"), the Commonwealth hereby certifies that it has carefully examined the matter and concluded that there is a true need for an urgent motion; it has not created the urgency through any lack of due diligence;

has made a bona fide effort to resolve the matter without a hearing; has made reasonable, good-faith communications in an effort to resolve or narrow the issues that are being brought to the Court, and no party opposes the relief requested herein.

Notice

10. The Commonwealth has provided notice of this Urgent Motion in accordance with the Case Management Procedures to the following parties: (a) the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Puerto Rico; (b) the indenture trustees and/or agents, as applicable, for the Debtors' bonds; (c) the entities on the list of creditors holding the 20 largest unsecured claims against COFINA; (d) counsel to the statutory committees appointed in these Title III cases; (e) the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico; (f) counsel to the Oversight Board; (g) the Puerto Rico Department of Justice; (h) all parties filing a notice of appearance in these Title III cases; and (i) Movants. A copy of the Urgent Motion is also available on the Commonwealth's case website at <https://cases.primeclerk.com/puertorico/>.

11. The Commonwealth submits that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

WHEREFORE, the Commonwealth requests the Court enter the Proposed Order and grant such other relief as is just and proper.

Dated: May 15, 2023
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Respectfully submitted,

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Exhibit A
Proposed Order